

Bottisham Scrapbook 1897 to 1990

Facts, Features and (occasional) Fallacies
reported in Cambridge Newspapers

summarised by

Mike Petty

Most of these stories originally appeared in the Cambridge Daily/Evening/News or the
Cambridgeshire Weekly News, its sister title.

They are supplemented by some articles published in the
Cambridge Independent Press or Cambridge Chronicle

Most were featured in my 'Looking Back' column in the Cambridge News from 1996-2014

The complete 'Cambridgeshire Scrapbook' of which this is a small section is published online at
bit.ly/CambsCollection

I have digital and other copies of most of the stories summarised.
I hope to publish these online one day. If you would like them in the meantime then please get in
touch.

The original volumes are housed in the Cambridgeshire Collection at Cambridge Central Library
where there are many other indexes dating back to 1770.

They also have detailed newspaper cuttings files on over 750 topics that have been compiled since the
1960s.

Newspapers sometimes get things wrong. I copy things out incorrectly. Do check

There are a multitude of spelling and layout errors. Please forgive or correct them

News never stops but this file was finished on 31 August 2016.

I will maintain supplements and corrections – contact me for anything you need

Please make what use of these notes that you may. Kindly remember where they came from

See my website – www.mikepetty.org.uk for further notes.

Mike Petty, Stretham

2016

Note: this compilation does not include all the stories relating to Lode

1898 05 06

Bottisham police weighing machine, p8

1898 12 12

A bus driver was summoned for being drunk whilst in charge of three horses and a bus at Quay. P.C. Edwards stated that an omnibus belonging to the Cambridge Omnibus Company, laden with passengers, and drawn by three horses overtook him near the Bottisham Swan, where passengers alighted. He overtook the bus halfway to the Prince Albert. Some of the passengers were then on the road, and the vehicle was on the wrong side, standing partially on the greensward between the hedge and the highway. One of the passengers said the driver was drunk and had nearly capsized the omnibus. The driver got down with difficulty and fell on the road and was so drunk that he could not get up again. He was fined 10s.

1899 05 02

At the swearing-in of parish constables at Bottisham Mr Alex said their duties had of late become partially obsolete. Parish constables were the rank and file of the civil army of the country. The office was a most important one, and the county was taking steps to revise the fees of parish constables, and was trying to put them on a more active basis than it had been for many years. In that way they would serve their Queen better, and deserve the thanks of the country

1899 06 21

Bottisham Liberals, p2

1899 12 04

A bog oak raised from the fen at Bottisham Lode was found to be 100 feet long. When men were splitting it they found in the centre a honeycomb which had also been embedded in the peat. The comb was in a perfect state of preservation and dotted about it were bees. The entrance to the comb was a gigantic knot and it is supposed that when the tree fell this fell directly into the gault, thus making prisoners of the bees which were in it.

1900 04 21

A serious bus accident happened in Mill Road, Cambridge. The omnibus was waiting for passengers opposite the Royal Standard public house and while the driver was talking on the path, the horses for some unknown reason bolted. The driver and conductor immediately ran after the horses, but were unable to catch them. Two passengers named Annie & Frances Scull, who were on the top of the 'bus jumped off. When the bus was about to pass the Durham Ox it collided with a market cart belonging to Jonas Wilmott, carrier of Orwell and then another cart in charge of Eli Newman, a hawker, of Bottisham.

1900 05 16

The evil-disposed person who has been paying nocturnal visits to the railway stations in the neighbourhood of Cambridge with the ostensible object of plundering the booking office, has scarcely been adequately remunerated for his trouble. He was first heard of at Histon station. In the morning the outer and inner doors of the office were still locked, and the windows were intact. The booking clerk was surprised, therefore, to find that the sum of £1.0.4d, the whole of the cash available, was missing. There was nothing to show in what way the thief had entered the premises. Stations at Quay, Bottisham and Barnwell were also visited and entered.

1900 09 18

Newmarket rural council heard that at Bottisham the difficulty had been to get at an adequate supply of water in the village, as the geological formation was against it. The wells that had been dug along a part of the village were simply cesspools, as they were dug into the chalk marl into which the sewage

and surface water ran and remained. The marl was not a water-bearing strata and water might lay deep. The well at the police station, for example, was 224 feet deep and cost £101 to sink.

1900 12 11

Bottisham bikes, p2

1901 05 29

During one of the heaviest storms ever known at Bottisham a barn in the occupation of Mr C. Potter, general dealer, was struck by lightning and owing to the inflammable nature of the materials of which it was built, was in flames in an instant. There were in the barn a pony, two sows, seven other pigs, a cart and some dipping tackle; all these were destroyed. During the storm rain fell in torrents, which will be beneficial to the parched crops.

1901 07 04

The excavation of the trenches in which the new sewers are to be laid along the Exeter Road, Newmarket, have reached about half way up the steep part leading to Exning Road. The men were working from eight to ten feet deep when without any warning a large mass of earth from one of the sides broke away and buried some of them. Enquires showed two men were missing, one being a labourer from Bottisham and the other a stranger called "Darky". Up to the time of writing one body has been found, but the other had not been recovered. Inquest 5th p3

1901 07 06

Recent rains have improved the fishing waters and with the reed cutting going on apace in the open waters anglers are having a better time all round. Serious complaints have been made as to the number of dead fish between Cambridge and Bottisham. That there is some poisonous matter in the river there can be no doubt. The popular opinion is that the overflow from the sewage pumping station has something to do with the slaughter of the finny tribe

1902 10 14

A Bottisham farmer was summonsed for unlawfully killing a bustard. His cowman saw a bird walking about among the cabbages and shot it. He gave it to the farmer who, not knowing what it was and whether it was good for food, took it to Mr Stanley's at Cambridge who said he thought it was a sort of turkey. It was sent to be stuffed at Mr Farren's who identified it as a great bustard, about two years old, worth about £20. The Chief Constable said a bird of this kind had been seen at Swaffham Fen and he had 30 placards with reference to its protection posted up. The man was fined £2

1903 09 14

A blacksmith was summonsed for obtaining beer at the "Wait for the 'Bus" public house, Bottisham by falsely representing himself as a traveller. The landlord said the man called for beer shortly after ten o'clock; asked whether he had come the necessary distance – three miles – the blacksmith said he had come from "just this side of Cambridge". If he had not represented himself as a traveller he would not have been served. He was fined 10s and asked for time in which to pay. The magistrates said: "We never allow time here. When you come to court here you must expect to be fined and bring your money with you".

1903 11 24

The contents of Herringswell House have been sold including a remarkable collection of paintings by J.F. Herring, senior which was formed by the late Mr Mure, who was one of his principal patrons. Many are known to have been painted there. A remarkable painting of the Coach and Four at Bottisham Swan was the gem and the buyer was fortunate in acquiring it for 310 guineas. Others fetched prices from £215 for a set of six hunting pictures to £12 for 12 finely-drawn crayon drawings attributed to Herring

1904 02 02

Magistrates received a complaint with respect to the Swan public house, Bottisham. An individual had applied at the house for some tea and bread and butter, but failed to get them. This was a very undesirable state of things in a public house which existed for the accommodation and refreshment of the public. The provision of food is equally as important as the provision of drink. When a man asked for such simple things as tea and bread and butter or cheese, certainly it ought to be within his reach. Similar complaints had come from University men. The public house was on the highway and something should be done to oblige the public

1904 07 25

Residents in Cambridge were among the witnesses of a race between two balloons which started from the Crystal Palace. The first, named the Norfolk, contained Mr C.F. Pollock, D. Lloyd and J.T.C. Moore Brabazon and the second, the Aero Club No.1 contained the Hon C.S. Rolls, a former Cambridge man, Prof Huntingdon and Mr Frank Butler. Mr Pollock obtained a lead of several miles by trailing – keeping very low and trailing a rope along the ground – but this could not be done for long as a village had to be ‘jumped’. When approaching Bottisham it was very near the ground and a number of cyclists awaited the descent; their hopes were doomed when the occupants threw out a quantity of ballast and ascended to a good height. A safe landing was effected near Ely for one balloon and the second was captured by a motor that was sent to chase it.

1904 10 17

A devastating fire broke out on Charles Parker’s farm near the church at Bottisham, in the most thickly populated part of the village. Had there been a strong wind it would be impossible to calculate the extent of the damage for there are 20 cottages close at hand. Police constable Whitwood, who is stationed at Swaffham, noticed a bright reflection in the sky and at once mounted his cycle, losing no time in reaching the scene while PC’s Salmon and Driver ran from the direction of Fulbourn. The old manual engine which is stored at the Police Station was requisitioned and proved useful, despite its age. It is dated 1796 and was repaired by the Parish Council in 1897

1905 02 14

Magistrates heard that there were four public rooms in the fully-licensed ‘Wait For the Bus’ at Bottisham. There were four alehouses, four beerhouses and one grocer’s licence for a population of 624. It used to be a very good pub when the old omnibuses used to run to Cambridge but since the railways had been opened there was little or no traffic on the road to Burwell. The landlord, Samuel Marshman said the trade amounted to about three barrels a month but it also provided teas and luncheons. He did not want the licence to be extinguished.

05 02 14b

1905 11 04

Justices awarded compensation under the scheme for reducing the number of public houses. They included the Hoops pubs in Kneesworth, Melbourn and Steeple Morden, the Sir Harry Smith at Swavesey and the Ram’s Head at Swaffham Bulbeck. In Oakington The Windmill, King’s Head and Plough and Harrow were closed. But the closure of the ‘Wait for the Bus’ at Bottisham was contested; others Rams Head, Swaffham Bulbeck; Swaffham Prior: White Hart; Swavesey: Railroad, Bird in Hand; Cottenham: Windmill; Dry Drayton: Rose and Crown 05 11 04b-d

1906 02 13

Licences – John Bull, Swaffham Prior; Plough, Bottisham; Hopbine, Cherry Hinton – 06 02 13c

1906 03 27

When Cambridgeshire magistrates started the task of extinguishing licences of public houses thought to be superfluous the offers of compensation were accepted in all but three cases. These were the Wait for the Bus at Bottisham, the Sir Harry Smith at Swavesey and the King’s Head, Oakington, all owned by Hudson’s Brewery of Pampisford. Now the Inland Revenue Commissioners have awarded larger

sums for two, but reduced the amount offered for the Wait for the 'Bus from £355 down to £120. Now the brewery may appeal 06 03 27a

1906 06 04

An inquest was held into the sad circumstances of the death of Police Inspector Sampson of Bottisham whose leg was crushed beneath a traction engine after a fall from a bicycle. He was free-wheeling down Allington Hill when he encountered Messrs Sturton's traction engine going down the centre of the road. His bicycle wobbled, he swerved and fell off under the wheels 06 06 04a

1906 06 30

Fourteen public houses have been closed under the Licensing Act of 1904. They include a beer house at Heath Road Litlington, which sold one barrel a week, including stout, and a gallon of ginger wine. All their beer was made from pure malt and hops and it was a better house than the two nearest to it. There were four fully-licensed houses, four beer houses and one off-licence in the village. The Dolphin at Stapleford had been shut up for six weeks as the former landlord had run away and the village appeared to do well without it. The present tenant was a cycle agent and taxidermist as well, 'So you stuff people first and put them on wheels afterwards?' also Cambridge: Jolly Butchers, Star, Sun; Bassingbourn: Crown; Bottisham: Plough; Comberton: Plough; Fordham: Six Bells, Landbeach: Red Cow; Lt Shelford: Carrier's Cart; Stapleford: Dolphin; Steeple Morden: beer house; Waterbeach: Haunch of Mutton, Plough and Horses; Willingham: William IV, Rose and Crown

06 06 30d,e, f

1906 11 16

The Compensation Authority considered claims for premises closed under the Licensing Act. They included a beerhouse at North Brook End, Steeple Morden, The Plough at Comberton, the Red Cow, Landbeach and Carrier's Cart at Lt Shelford. Potton Brewery said they would lose £275 if the licence of a beerhouse at Heath Road, Litlington was taken away but accepted £240 as compensation. However Benskin's Watford Brewery refused £251 for the Sun in Newmarket Road, Cambridge. also Stapleford Dolphin, Waterbeach Haunch of Mutton & Plough & Horses, Sawston – Flower Pot, Willingham – King William IV, Bottisham Plough, Soham Queen's Arms and Old Brewery 06 11 16a & b

1907 02 12

Licensing sessions – Bottisham, Pike & Eel Fen Ditton, Swaffham Prior – Anchor & Red Lion, Guilden Morden – Six Bells – 07 02 12a & b

1908 01 17

Bottisham, Lode and Hauxton have Church Schools where the clergy have the right of entry and control of religious education of Church of England children each morning. Hitherto the children of Nonconformists have been allowed to run about the village until the hour for religious instruction has concluded. Now they are to receive simple Bible teaching from the Council teachers. 08 01 17a

1908 02 15

Swaffham Prior had nine licenced houses, six full and three beer 'on' for a population of 950. The John Bull was in a dilapidated condition, it was next door to the Red Lion which had stables for four horses and had been put into a thorough state of repair. Bottisham have seven pubs; the Rose and Crown was in bad repair but the Swan had six bedrooms and a bakehouse. Cow and Hare, Rock Hotel, Fen Ditton; Blue Lion, Fulbourn: Royal Oak, Bottisham: Rose and Crown, Swaffham Prior: John Bull, Reach: Uncle Tom's Cabin, Lt Wilbraham: Hole in the Wall. 08 02 15 & a & b

1908 02 17

Bottisham traction engine without lights – 08 02 17a

1908 04 10

Bottisham and Lode schools unsanitary – 08 04 10a

1908 05 01

Bottisham shooting rights dispute – 08 05 01

1908 07 31

Twenty-six licensed houses are to close, magistrates decided. They include the Robin Hood at Litlington, Chesterton Long Reach, Swaffham Prior's Uncle Tom's Cabin and the Three Jolly Watermen in Waterbeach Fen. But the Fox in the Wood at Soham and the Cock at Isleham were spared after Police Superintendent Winter failed to appear to give evidence. The licence of the Black Horse at Over was renewed after the Star Brewery appealed. also Barrington Boot & Shoe, Bassingbourn Yew Tree, Steeple Morden Lion, Swaffham Prior John Bull, Bottisham Rose & Crown, Cottenham Six Bells, Oakington Lion and Lamb, Stapleford Hammer & Anvil, Swavesey Chequers, Willingham Little Rose, Castle Camps George, Balsham Ram, Linton White Hart, Cambridge Yorkshire Grey, Old Red Lion, Nine Pines, Thatched House, Baker's Arms, Red Lion, Brewery Tap & Carpenters' Arms. CWN 08 07 31

1908 08 21

Children's fishing match at Bottisham – photo – CWN 08 08 21

1908 12 25

The Boxing Day Costermonger's Marathon Race started from Abbey Street with each competitor pushing a barrow to the Bottisham Swan (a distance of six miles) and back. Performances of the romantic drama 'From Shop Girl to Duchess' at the New Theatre appealed to many, while there were cinematograph exhibitions at the Guildhall and at Sturton Town Hall. CWN 08 12 25

1909 02 12

Licensing objections to Bottisham Rose and Crown, Swaffham Prior John Bull and Uncle Tom's Cabin at Reach – 09 02 12

1909 03 05

The White Wyandotte Club Year Book is a combined guide and reference book to this popular breed of chickens and includes a series of excellent illustrations. It is beautifully printed and daintily bound and may be obtained from the secretary, Mr J. Stephen Hicks of Bottisham, for three-pence in stamps.

1909 04 09

The river Cam is so badly silted that sailing races are seriously impeded. Now the section from Bottisham Locks to Waterbeach Lode will be dredged by the South Level Commissioners and the bit from Clayhithe to Jesus Green by the Conservators of the Cam with funding from the Town Council and University Boat Club. This is of satisfaction to all sailing and rowing men especially F. H. Sanderson, president of the Cam Sailing Club, who regards the river as one of the most valuable assets Cambridge possesses. 09 04 09

1909 12 31

The Costermongers Boxing Day Marathon race was run between East Road and Bottisham and back. It is open to men who earn their living by hawking and the fact that 17 came forward with their barrows in such unfavourable conditions says a good deal for their hardiness. Soon mud began to bespatter the runners. Tom Nunn took the lead in the outward journey but was finally beaten by Sam George. CWN 09 12 31

1910 01 21

An old Bottisham man recalled: "I remember the time, 68 years ago, when I used to go bird scaring. I used to go past the church at four o'clock in the morning, and used to come home at sundown. I have ploughed scores of acres on a bit of bread and onions, and I have seen my poor old father crying while he's been thrashing wheat because he hadn't a bit of bread to eat. We don't want those times to come

back again". He concluded: "God bless the Liberals, who gave us old age pensions. Look how I used to live, and how I've lived this year" CWN 10 01 21c & d

1910 04 22

Bottisham magistrates displayed considerable courage by ordering the birching of four youngsters who had been proved guilty of egg-stealing. If they inflicted a fine the punishment would fall not on the boys, but upon their parents who were respectable people who worked hard to keep their children neat and clean. The object of punishment is to act as a warning to others and serve as a deterrent for the future. There will be very little egg-stealing amongst Bottisham juveniles for some time 10 04 22a

1910 06 10

"Pretty Poll", the pet of the village post office, the autocrat of the counter and the terror of several generations of Bottisham children, passed away suddenly at the ripe age of 60 odd years. Few residents have secured by sheer force of personality such an abiding reputation for imperiousness combined with a haughty good temper. For the past 30 years the famous cockatoo had held undisputed sway, subject to occasional supervision by the Misses King. Anyone who entered was immediately made aware that it is not the essence of politeness to put one elbow on the counter and lounge as though in a public bar 10 06 10d

1910 07 09

On Saturday an Oakington farmer lost a flock of 83 sheep but, like Little Bo-Peep, he left them alone and hoped they would come home. Then on Sunday he hired a motor car and scoured the country visiting Bottisham, Newmarket, Shelford and other places too numerous to mention. At length discouraged and with the petrol tank running low, he turned towards home and when nearing the Five Bells on the Huntingdon Road espied them in front of him. Had the farmer only had the faith of Miss Bo Peep he would have saved himself a long motor ride. 10 07 09g

1911 06 16

A furniture pantechnicon belonging to Mr Winter was involved in a collision with a motor car near Bottisham. It was overturned and practically smashed up. The three horses drawing it were freed from the shafts, took fright and bolted while the driver and two other men, all of whom were seated on the top, were thrown off. The motor car, a valuable high-powered touring vehicle, was badly damaged and the passenger sent hurtling through the glass screen. Mr H.P. Storey, cycle and motor engineer of Bridge Street sent out his tackle and staff who brought the damaged car back to his garage for repairs estimated at £100. It was not insured. 11 06 16

1911 10 27

The annual gleaners' tea was held at the Anchor, Bottisham. The large club-room was prettily decorated and tea was served in a capital style. Upwards of 70 persons sat down. During the evening some good songs were rendered by several of the company and all seemed to enjoy themselves thoroughly. Before separating each guest received a quarter of a pound of tea. They toasted the health of Sir Charles Rose, MP, who had liberally subscribed to the funds. 11 10 27d

1911 12 01

The headmaster of Bottisham School, S.H. Hollis, was appointed in February 1873 and opened the school in March under the old School Board. He has taken a keen interest in local affairs, being secretary to the reading room since its opening 25 years ago as well as the annual show, cricket and Conservative clubs. He was involved in Victoria's two Jubilee celebrations and two coronations, been parish councillor, churchwarden and choirmaster. He has been correspondent of the Cambridgeshire Weekly News since its commencement. 11 12 01g

1912 01 26

On Plough Monday it was the custom at Bottisham for ploughboys to have half a gallon of beer at each of the five public houses. Police found two of them drunk in the road. One had collided with a

wall and could not get up; he was taken home in a wheelbarrow. The landlord of the Swan Inn said he'd only supplied them with beer. But his wife said she'd served the men with whisky that farmer Woollard had paid for. He confirmed that he'd put sixpence in the ploughboys' box and treated them to whisky. He would be surprised to find men sober who had visited at the public houses in the village. But they were sober when they left. 12 01 26 & a

1912 04 12

A disastrous fire resulting in the complete destruction of two cottages occurred at Lode. The building, which was very old, was of stud and plaster with a thatched roof. It was in the occupation of Mrs Abbott, widow of a former schoolmaster; one room was used by the Lode Institute. Mr Newman and John Fletcher brought out the antiquated Bottisham fire engine, drawn by a slow-going agricultural horse which arrived after an hour. The engine has seen over a century's service, being presented by Miss Jenyns of Bottisham Hall in 1796. It has, of course, been renovated more than once and is still of use in an emergency. 12 04 12g

1912 06 28

William Thomas Kirkup was the pioneer of the modern scientific system of chimney-sweeping and his business extended to nearly all of the colleges, notably Trinity and St John's. He formerly resided at King Street, then at Bottisham before returning to Chesterton Road where he passed away at the age of 67. He was an active member of the old Volunteer force and served 22 years as a bandsman. 12 06 28b

1912 12 21

Christmas of 1912 promises to be as happy as any of its predecessors. The complaint of 'low wages and high prices' is heard in many quarters but evidence of material prosperity is afforded by the increased bulk of trade. Cambridge tradesmen have seldom shown such enterprise in regard to the stock exhibited and their reward promises to be forthcoming in the hearty response of shoppers. The football match on the Town grounds on Christmas Day is sure to prove a great attraction and the 'Barnwell Derby' race for costermongers pushing their barrows from Cambridge to Bottisham Swan will take place on Boxing Day 12 12 21c

1913 02 07

Bottisham licensing sessions, Swan inn

1913 02 21

The new scheme for the administration of charities at Bottisham & Lode was the subject of protest meetings of a very lively character. The Charities Commissioners did not know the local needs as well as the Trustees. One scheme provided apprenticeship for a poor boy who wanted something different from farming, others provided blankets and flour. Money from the Poor's Fen charity should continue to be distributed in the form of coal as many villagers were very poor and could not afford it. The Vicar of Lode said they didn't want people from Bottisham to tell them what they should have – the rest of his sentence was lost in the uproar 13 02 21 p10

1913 02 28

Bottisham farmer Day inquest

1913 03 28

Bottisham school changes

1913 04 18

Bottisham scout group formed

County council – road maintenance, motor lorries, Bottisham school house.

1913 05 09

There was a huge increase in heavy motor traffic carrying goods that had previously gone by train. In prosperous Cambridge there were 26 heavy motor lorries, including the motor-'buses, and 21 motor drays. Most of their running was done on the county roads at a fairly high speed. It was important to have good roads, not only for the ordinary motor-cars but for the heavy commercial vehicles, because they helped to promote industry in various parts of the county, councillors were told. 13 05 09

1913 07 11

Bottisham Boy Scouts enrolment service

1913 10 10

Bottisham invention of mould for making concrete blocks

1913 10 10

On Sunday evening whilst Mr Arber, the verger, was putting the numbers on one of the hymn board at Bottisham church, the chair on which he was standing slipped and he fell with considerable violence on the back of another chair, sustaining a nasty cut on the left cheek. He went to the surgery of Dr Wood who bound up the wound and is progressing as favourably as possible 13 10 10 p12 CIP

1913 11 21

Misses King have retired from the business carried on by their family on Stocks Hill Bottisham for more than 40 years and the post office which has been there since 1881 has moved next door to the Anchor. It was noted for the picturesque telegraph pole at the back of the house which was literally covered with ivy up to the wires and had to be cut away before another wire could be attached 13 11 21 p12 CIP

1913 11 28

Bottisham woman cut throat but nobody helped as thought must wait for police & p8

1913 11 28

Bottisham poacher

1913 12 26

Bottisham share out club

1914 01 02

There were animated scenes along the road between Cambridge and Bottisham on Boxing Day when the annual Costers' Marathon took place. A big crowd saw the 14 competitors start from Abbey Street. They had to travel to Bottisham and back, a distance of 11 miles, pushing a coster's barrow before them. Ben Warren led practically all the way covering the distance to Bottisham rapidly, but facing the wind on the return leg left all competitors severely tired. Most finished and received half-a-crown. 14 01 02c pic 14 01 02d

1914 02 06

Stack Catches Fire. — Considerable excitement was caused in Bottisham Lode last night by a stack fire which broke out a little on the Cambridge side of the village. Three stacks, one belonging to Mr. Cornwell, were almost totally destroyed. Mr. J. C. Denison-Pender, M.P., who was motoring from Lower Hare Park to Teversham, saw the reflections of the flames and upon being informed that some dwellings were alight, at once motored to the scene of the conflagration to see what assistance he might render. Upon arrival he found the fire was confined to the stacks, and so proceeded to his meetings.

1914 05 01

The King's car slowed down near Bottisham Vicarage where the schoolchildren had assembled. Bugler Bowers, of the Boy Scouts, gave the signal of the King's approach and the children sang the

National Anthem. The well-known house, 'The Swan' was beautifully decorated and the church flag floated proudly in the breeze from the tower. Quite a crowd of people from adjacent villages lined the road towards Cambridge 14 05 01g

1914 07 31

Bottisham drowning in well, Boy Scout

1914 09 11

Enlistment – Lolworth, Boxworth, Over, Bourn, Linton, Cottenham, Elsworth, Swavesey, Bottisham, Longstanton, Sawston, Comberton, Waterbeach

1914 09 18

Bottisham labourer dies in well

1914 09 25

Recruits Bottisham

1914 10 16

Bottisham news of troops

1914 10 23

Casualties – Bottisham, Gt Shelford

1915 08 20

Men who have distinguished themselves on battlefield: W. Ralph, Bottisham; E.T. Saint; Daldry; O.W. Parkinson; C.E. Morley, Gt Shelford; S. Freestone, Sawston; L.A. Austin; F. Potter DCM; F.J. Gatward – 15 08 20b

1916 03 08

Arthur Marsh, Bottisham has four fighting sons – photo – 16 03 08f

1916 06 14

Cottage struck by lightning. A cottage in Bell Road, Bottisham, was considerably damaged by lightning during a storm last week. The gable end was wrecked and the lightning appears to have passed through the floor and across the downstairs room. In the room, Mrs. G. Hiner and Mrs. A. Brown, her daughter, were sitting, and the lightning passed between the two without injuring either — a remarkable escape. Considerable damage was done to the furniture in the bedroom. A singular thing was that the occurrence took place on the same day as the sad news was received of: the loss of Lord Kitchener, and a picture of the Secretary for War, which was hanging on the wall of the downstairs room, was split by the lightning. 16 06 14b

1916 07 12

Hero's Father. John Cornwall, H.M.S. Chester's boy hero, who stood at his post, though mortally wounded, was a member of a Cambridgeshire family. His father is a native of Bottisham Lode and is at present fighting in France. He wears the South African medal and the Egyptian Star and medal.

1916 10 25

Juvenile Parish Clerk and Postman.—The 11-year-old son of Mr. Alfred Arber, of Bottisham (one of the village postmen for 24 years and church clerk) is, as far as possible, carrying on the duties of his father, who has joined the Colours. The boy rings the bells at 9 o'clock on Sundays, and starts the chiming of the bells for Divine Service. He also looks after the church clock, and most of the work which was carried on by his father. Possibly he is the youngest church clerk on record. The mother also takes her husband's place in minding the children, in church.

1916 11 08

The Gale.—The windy weather experienced for some days culminated on Sunday in a terrific south-easterly gale which played havoc among tiles, etc. (at Bottisham). In several places branches of trees, as well as trees themselves, were snapped, but fortunately no one was hurt.

1917 04 25

The latest big push – local men in casualty list; Bottisham casualties – 17 04 25c

1917 06 06

Feast, — In common with other villages, there is a poor show this year (at Bottisham); the old custom will no doubt remain in abeyance during the war. On Sunday there were not so many visitors as usual, though the weather was gloriously fine. On Monday and Tuesday there were a few stalls, but the roundabouts were conspicuous by their absence.

1918 06 05

Sold Out,—On Sunday last there was no beer to be had in Bottisham, the five public houses having sold out. No such thing has occurred for a great many years. Many people journeyed to Swaffham Bulbeck to get some.

1919 12 24

Gales at Bottisham. -One of the worst gales of late years occurred at Bottisham on Thursday evening. Much damage was done at the outlying farm of Mr. Tebbit, situated on the Old Field Road. Here four mustard stacks in a row of six were completely overturned and their contents scattered in every direction, involving a considerable loss. At Bendyshe Hall, Mr. Bedford's shop and at the residence of Mrs. F. E. Newman, much damage was done by falling masonry. A garden wall at Bottisham Place was levelled to the ground. Rain for a short time fell in torrents, and was accompanied by thunder and lightning.

1920 01 07

Bottisham & Swaffham Drainage, commissioners' financial difficulties; £10,000 flood damage last year; interesting inquiry; former owner of Anglesey Abbey had made arrangements to divert certain water which passed in front of his house ... Swaffham drainage system the most expensive ... in 1853 the fen people promised the high land people they could conduct the water along the Lodes instead of allowing it to run into the Fen- 20 01

1920 01 07

Rats Killed, Up to December 3rd last the number of rats killed in the county and paid for by Cambs County Council under the Rats Order, was 35,516. The districts concerned were: Little Abington (number of rats killed 504), Ashley (980), Balsham (2,718), Borough Green (358), Bottisham (999), Cheveley (631), Chippenham (838), Great Chishill (322), Croxton (225), Dullingham (1,205), Duxford (754), Elsworth (39), Fordham (8,072), Fowlmere (489), Harston (322), Hauxton (186), Heydon (1,593), Hildersham (236), Horseheath (324), Ickleton (1,095), Isleham (3,809), Kennett (1,422), Kirtling (396), Kneesworth (549), Linton (584), Lode (548), Melbourn (442), Newton (160), Pampisford (429), Sawston (332), Shepreth (313), Shudy Camps (1,38), Snailwell (786), Soham (2,896), Stetchworth (1,105), Swaffham Prior (1,032), Thriplow (464), Waterbeach (967), West Wickham (995), Whittlesford (324), Great Wilbraham (846), Wood Ditton (2,017).

1924 09 16

George Mansfield gave evidence that he started a motor service from Burwell four years ago. He bought a new bus this year. At the Swan corner in Bottisham an Ortona bus passed him and pulled on the bend, making him wait or go bumping over the green. Eventually he passed by going on the path. The Ortona was in the habit of passing him and then going very slowly in front. Defendant said Mansfield started a bus to run in front of the Ortona and take away their customers and the firm would not stand that.

1925 03 27

The death of the vicar of Lode occurred under tragic circumstances within a few yards of the Vicarage. He was walking along the right hand side of the road. A motor oil delivery van, belonging to the Anglo-American Oil Company had just turned the corner from the direction of Bottisham. William Sargent, a blacksmith said he heard the hooter sound and the driver shouted. The motor van was only going about two miles an hour when it passed his shop. The vicar was lying between the two near side wheels, the front wheel had passed over his head.

1925 06 10

A vision of 300-ton vessels using the river to bring goods into Cambridge from abroad was conjured up by Rotarian Alfred Winship. This could not be done however until Baitsbite and Bottisham Locks had been enlarged and made efficient. His idea was to have a ship canal. Rivers had to be enlarged in any case for drainage purposes. Barges approaching 14 feet wide already used the lodes and farmers were already talking about getting Scotch seed potatoes by river.

1925 08 27

With regard to water supplies in the Newmarket rural district 83 of the 103 water samples taken for analysis were reported to be polluted. In Soham where about 100 houses were supplied from 56 polluted wells, 53 have been connected with the public water main and now of 1,123 structurally separated dwellings 860 are supplied from the mains. At Bottisham 12 samples taken from different wells at the north end of the village all afforded evidence of pollution. In Linton a new public well has been bored into the chalk & consideration has been given to the provision of a new public well at Milton which it is expected will shortly be proceeded with.

1925 11 26

At the close of the public examination in bankruptcy of Dr - - of Bottisham the official receiver said he had received a resolution of sympathy passed by all the debtors' creditors – all except the money lenders. He was a medical practitioner and had invested all his capital in the practice, which he continued successfully until the war. About three years ago he got into financial difficulties and had recourse to money lenders; he had been in their hands ever since, sometimes borrowing from one to repay another.

1926 01 07

Further manifestation of the stubbornness of parents in the Bottisham area against sending their children to school at Burwell was forthcoming when a number of summonses for non-attendance were heard. One case was adjourned in order to consider whether the County Council would sanction a child remaining at Swaffham School, where there was plenty of room. One parent contended it would be detrimental to the health of his children, who were delicate, to go to Burwell. If the girl was allowed to go to Reach school for a year he would be prepared to send her to Burwell after that, if she grew out of her delicate condition.

1926 04 09

The annual report of the Cambs District Milk Recording Scheme records the total number of herds was 96 and the number of cows 1,168. The maximum yield of milk given by a cow was 16,194 lbs. It was with regret that members heard that Mr A. Macarthur has decided to give up the Hall Farm at Bottisham. He was the first chairman and the owner of one of the finest herds of heavy-milking commercial cattle in the Eastern Counties. The Rev C.H. Brocklebank is leaving Bartlow & Col. W.F. Northman has disposed of his herd to Major S.G. Howard of Kirtling.

1926 04 10

Anglesey Abbey, the fine old historical residence, is to be offered for sale. Founded by Henry I, the Augustinian Monastery was one of the first of its order in England. After passing through various hands the estate became the property of the Rev John Hailstone, Vicar of Bottisham, who beautifully

restored the house in 1860 and whose representatives after his decease sold it in 1888 to the present owners, by whom it has been completely modernised.

1927 07 21

A showman was convicted for obstructing free passage of High Street, Lode. A farmer said he was driving his car and had to pull up as a roundabout was half-way across the road and a crowd of people and little children near by. A fair had a definite legal origin but a feast was an individual enterprise by proprietors of the amusements and there was no possible right to obstruct the highway. But at Bottisham the feast was held opposite the church and a feast and a fair were really one and the same. It was an occasion where the inhabitants who had left the village came back for a short time. He had visited for ten years and had a statement signed by the vicar and most of the inhabitants who were in favour of the feast being held on the same spot.

1930 03 08

Mr W.F. Turner has sent us a photograph of all that remains of the old Bottisham fire engine. He came across it in an old lumberyard. It was presented to the parish by Mr Jenyns and repaired by public subscription in 1881. Many years ago there was a fireman's fete at Cambridge and this quaint old engine was manned by some high-spirited undergraduates who called themselves the Darktown Brigade. They all wore old-fashioned top hats and masks and created a good deal of fun.

1930 11 07

Mrs Emma Gunton is celebrating her 100th birthday; she is the second Cambridge lady this week to reach this wonderful age. She is remarkable: she walks without assistance, has her own teeth and eats her meals regularly. She has never had an illness and only required the attention of a doctor on one occasion she met with an accident. Born at Bottisham she possesses a fine memory and can recall the coming of railway trains. 30 11 07

1932 03 02

The chatter of Lewis guns and the rattle of rifle fire echoed almost continuously over the countryside around the peaceful villages of Bottisham and Quy for almost four hours as members of the Perse, Leys and County School Officers' Training Corps took part in a field day. The first thing inhabitants knew of impending hostilities came when several motor buses disgorged their occupants ready for the fray. Our reporter was fighting his own battle on his bicycle with the wind in an endeavour to get to the battle front before the attack materialised. But the wind won. 32 03 02 & 02a

1934 04 14

The Chief Constable reported that two motor cycle combinations and two BSA solo motor cycles supplied in February 1931 were now worn out. They were in constant use and had each done over 40,000 miles. He recommended they be replaced with two Hillman Minx cars. With these he could cover the whole of the county more efficiently. One would be based at headquarters and the other at Bottisham. 34 04 14

1935 07 31

Lord Fairhaven has launched a very interesting scheme for the development of village beauty at Bottisham and Lode. He has offered prizes for which those owning small houses and cottages with a road frontage may compete with attention paid towards an increase of permanent beauty eg thatching, colour-washing, hedging or planting of trees or shrubs. He hopes that these two villages should stand out as examples of which a village may become by the efforts of its inhabitants. 35 07 31a

1935 08 03

Don't forget to 'touch wood' at Touchwood Cottage on the main Cambridge – Newmarket main road between Bottisham and Newmarket. You will get nice teas here, and light refreshments are served at all times at moderate charges. Open to midnight (Advertisement featuring photograph of the cottage) 35 08 03c

1935 12 31

Coster's annual barrow race to Bottisham swan 25 years ago – photo – 35 12 31a

1936 04 14

Roger W.B. Jenyns of Bottisham Hall took the welfare of village cricket to heart and presented a cup with the final played in his Park. The first member of the family to live in Bottisham was Sir Roger Jenyns who was knighted for his services in the drainage of the fens. Others included Sarah, the famous Duchess of Marlborough, and Soame Jenyns a great literary character of the 18th century while an uncle was one of the survivors of the charge of the Light Brigade at Balaclava. He is succeeded by Roger Soame Jenyns who after four years in the Colonial Service at Hong Kong is now a Keeper of Oriental Antiquities at the British Museum 36 04 14

1936 08 20

Lord Fairhaven's Bottisham and Lode garden competition extended to Swaffham Bulbeck – 36 08 20a

1936 12 29

Bottisham stores threatened when lorry standing outside caught fire after driver filled up with petrol – 36 12 29

1937 05 07

Bottisham Village College was opened by the President of the Board of Education. During the day the college houses 240 scholars in the senior school with a provided for the county library which will be used by students at evening classes. The warden's house and a house for women members of staff occupy a site opposite the main building. Adjacent is the junior school with a nursery for the under-fives and the Sir Hailey Stewart Clinic for the medical inspection of pupils. 37 05 07 & a

1937 05 07

Four members of George Challice's Band had a remarkable escape from serious injury. They were being driven back to Cambridge from a dance at the new Bottisham Village College when their car, a Riley Nine, skidded on the wet road, caught the verge and somersaulted several times. It finished up on the road with the wheels in the air. The occupants scrambled out with considerable difficulty. When an attempt was made to right the car, it fell to pieces. 37 05 07b # c.69.2

1938 01 03

Bottisham Police Court, which is a rather primitive building at the best of times, should be modernised. A large number of cases were dealt with during the year and in some there were five or six witnesses. When they were ordered outside there was no seating accommodation for them, and while waiting they were exposed to the weather. The heating apparatus should also be improved, councillors were told. 38 01 03 & a

1938 01 15

Albert Wright entered the service of the LNER in 1891 as a clerk at Bottisham and retired as assistant district superintendent at Cambridge. He had overseen the completion of the new marshalling yards at Whitmore, with the mechanised shunting arrangements, flood-lighting and electric signalling, improvement in transport facilities for various beet factories, up-dated signalling and improved stations. He recalled when the beet sugar season was in the heyday of its prosperity and the days when economy was the keynote in the same industry and he had to make desperate efforts to avoid cutting down the staff 38 01 15 b & c

1938 05 06

Bottisham Village College celebrates 1st birthday – 38 05 06c

1939 01 30

Flood levels in the fens remain high. At Waterbeach the Town Crier made a call for volunteers and rallied forty men to work on the banks of the Bottisham Lode. At Littleport station sleepers are covered and only the tops of the lines are showing. Goods trucks are standing with water beneath them. In the Holmes inhabitants have left before their houses were surrounded. At Swavesey Mow Fen and Middle Fen railway gatehouses have had to be evacuated. 39 01 30a

1940 04 19

Eeling at Bottisham Locks. — In a recent issue (March 22), writes Watchman, reference was made to a possible revival of a once important Fenland industry, namely eel fishing. A correspondent, who, about 70 years ago was born and reared within a mile of Bottisham Locks, once a famous place on the Cam for eels, is reminded of some interesting happenings and of an eel pie business there. About a century ago, the keeper of the locks was old William Robinson, who lived in a little cottage opposite the sluice gates with his wife and daughter. And he was one of the most famous, eelers of his time, working not only on the Cam, but also along the lode that runs from Bottisham to the locks on the main stream. He rarely used an eel fork or spear for catching eels, preferring the "eel-set" (snare) or eel-buck (trap), a kind of wicker tunnel closed at one end. The old lock keeper caught more eels than he could comfortably dispose of alive, and this led to the making of two penny eel pies by his wife and daughter. On certain evenings the old fellow would go into Waterbeach village and at the Sun, Rose and Crown, Dog and Duck, Travellers' Rest, and other taverns marketed his wares. The fame of Robinson's eel pies, reached Cambridge, but before a branch business or "round" could be established in the town, the famous old eel catcher died and the business came to an end. According to my correspondent, who often discussed the eel trade with other eelers at the locks, the female eel is "very tasty, very sweet" and far better than the male of the species, the male being smaller and tougher than the female. CIPof 19 Apr 1940

1940 07 12

Bottisham Players. "Lady Audley's Secret," a play that delighted the hearts of our grandparents, was "Called up" to help the war effort on Saturday afternoon and evening at Bottisham. It was presented at the Village College in aid of the funds of the Cambridgeshire branch of the Red Cross and of the Comforts for the Troops Fund. The cast was drawn from members of the Drama class which is run at Bottisham.

1941 09 26

Mural Tablets. During the morning service at Bottisham church two tablets of Hopwood stone, which have been placed on the north wall by the vestry door, were unveiled. The first has the inscription: "In dear memory of Cara Leland. Lady Fairhaven. November 24. 1867-March 18. 1939. To the most devoted mother. From her unforgetting son." and the family coat of arms. The second contains a plan of the memorial chapel to be erected to her memory, and the inscription: "The memorial chapel projected beyond this door by her elder son, Lord Fairhaven, was postponed on the outbreak of war, 1939."

1943 01 22

New Archdeacon. — Announcement has already been made that the Ven. Dr. K. D. Knowles is resigning the Archdeaconry of Huntingdon (says Watchman). He will relinquish the office on March 31 next, but will remain Vicar of Diddington. Now I learn that the Bishop of Ely has appointed the Rev. W. A. Uthwatt, Rector of Brampton, to be Archdeacon in his place. For some years Mr. Uthwatt was vicar of Bottisham.

1944 03 10

62 Years Wed. — Mr. and Mrs. Eli Johnson, of Bell Road, Bottisham, have recently celebrated the 62nd anniversary of their wedding. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson: (nee Benstead) .were married at Bottisham Church on February 2, 1882, by the then vicar (Rev. J. D. Williams). Many congratulations have been received by the old couple including a telegram from the King. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson have lived in Bottisham all their lives. Mrs. Johnson was a regular attendant at church, a

regular communicant, a member of the Mothers' Union, a member of the Parochial Church Council and other organisations, as long, as she was able to get out. Mr. Johnson, who is 80, works in his garden and walks about the village.

1944 09 01

Cambs Police Changes. The retirement on August 31 of two members of the Cambs County Police Force has meant promotions and a reshuffle. Those who retire, both after 25 years' service, are Supt. Frank Housden of Newmarket, and Sergeant C. Gilby, of Bottisham. Inspector L. A. Unwin, of Newmarket, will succeed the superintendent, having been appointed temporary superintendent. Sergeant Walter Leach, of Linton, becomes temporary inspector, while Detective Constables F. W. G. Fouracre and F. G. Brown, both at present attached to headquarters, have been appointed to the rank of temporary sergeant. P.c. Miller, of Waterbeach, will be transferred to the Criminal Investigation Department at Headquarters.

1944 10 20

Memorial Tablet. — A memorial to the late Mr. R. W. B. Jenyns, of Bottisham Hall, was recently dedicated by the Archdeacon of Huntingdon (Ven. W. A. Uthwatt, late Vicar of Bottisham). It is in the form of a tablet designed in the Renaissance style, with a carved and coloured coat of arms above the inscription within a surround of delicate mouldings. It is placed against the stone chancel screen and is dedicated to him by his wife and three sons.

1946 07 22

Bottisham airfield to become a training centre for builders – 46 07 22

1947 08 06

Only in cases of "exceptional hardship" can private householders hope to employ in domestic service the displaced persons now coming into the area to help relieve the labour shortage in certain industries. Since the beginning of June some 1,400 of these displaced persons have arrived from Germany at a West Wrating holding camp. Their nationalities are Latvian, Lithuanian, Estonian and Ukranian. Ages range from 25 to 40. The jobs woman can take include laundry work, domestic service in hospitals and hostels, and agriculture, and these are the sort of jobs they have taken in this region. Men, too have gone into agriculture. I understand that another camp accommodating about the same number will shortly be opened in Bottisham

1947 08 30

An assurance that he would try and bring their families over to England as soon as possible was given to the displaced persons at West Wrating Eastern Volunteer Workers' Camp by Mr George Isaacs, the Minister of Labour, when he visited the camp and inspected it. He had lunch with about 250 of the E.V.W.s in one of their two dining rooms. The meal, the normal one served at the camp, consisted of soup, cold beef, salad and potatoes, baked apple and custard and, finally, coffee. After Mr Isaacs had visited all sections of the camp, which houses some 900 volunteer workers awaiting employment, he went on to the former Bottisham airfield where final preparations were being made for opening another camp the following day when the first intake of 270 was to arrive

1947 11 19

Treasures from European homes guarded during the war years together with many articles made in camps for displaced persons, all of great artistic beauty, were on view at the European Voluntary Workers' Hostel at Bottisham and the Latvian group presented a concert to celebrate their national day of independence. This hostel is a reception area for voluntary workers in this country, who stay there about ten days while they are equipped with ration books, identity cards, etc, taught a little English and generally "put on their feet"

1948 03 19

Concern as to whether men at the European Voluntary Workers camp, Bottisham, were getting their correct ration of food was expressed by the Chairman of the Bottisham magistrates when three of

them appeared before the courts on charges involving bread units. The proceedings took one-and-a-half hours due to the fact that two of the men spoke German and the other Juoslovakian. Each case therefore had to be dealt with separately. It was said that there has been almost a trade amongst the Displaced Persons with regard to bread. . They have been going into Cambridge very frequently and been obtaining the bread at the shops there and taking it back to the camp where they sell it at the rate of from 2s.6d to 3s. a lb.

1948 04 05

Six Mile Bottom is such a quiet place and the lack of activity was so getting down Bertie, the red-poled bull at Lord Delamere's farm, that he decided to take a walk into the big outside world and see for himself just what was going on. Over the fields he walked and soon came to the Cambridge-Newmarket road, turned left and ambled on towards Cambridge. Bertie then became a little panicky and made a hasty rush for Bottisham, turning into the first courtyard he saw. This happened to be the back of Mr J. Bedford's grocery stores and he made a rush at Mrs Bedford who suffered slight injuries to her forehead and knees.

1950 08 28

For the past four weeks about 60 children of all ages ranging from 5 to 15 of the Estonians refugees doing farm work in this country – there are about 7,000 in all - have been at a holiday camp at Bottisham. The dual object is to enable the children to keep in contact with others of their own nationality, and to enable their parents to have a holiday on their own. It is the second year of the camp, under the charge of headmistress Miss S. Pruden

1950 08 31

The post office proposes to introduce the 999 scheme for emergency calls as from today at exchanges in the areas of Bottisham, Comberton, Cottenham, Elsworth, Shelford, Haddenham & Waterbeach. The system enables a caller by dialling 999 instead of 0 to secure the special attention of the exchange operator for emergency calls. Special equipment has been installed at the exchange so that when 999 is dialled an emergency lamp and loud buzzer will indicate to the operator that the call is especially urgent.

1951 10 10

Bottisham Small-Bore Rifle Club held its outdoor shoot on the new outdoor range at Swaffham Bulbeck. A great deal of work was entailed in the preparation of the site and gratitude was expressed to Mr Stevens for the use of his land for the range, and to the police and military authorities for their help and prompt issuing of the necessary permits. The warden of Bottisham Village College has given every encouragement to the patriotic recreation of small-bore rifle shooting.

1952 03 17

A home-made gun made out of pieces of wood and lead tubing lay on the table in front of a 16-year-old Polish boy as he told the Cambridge coroner how a bullet from it had killed a fellow schoolboy at the Polish Boy's College, Bottisham. The top of the bullet with a charge of 50 match-heads behind it passed through the door of a Nissen Hut, pierced the window of an adjacent hut ten yards away and hit him in the head.

1952 04 16

Two new Western Chapels, erected at Bottisham church by Lord Fairhaven in memory of his mother, were dedicated by the Bishop of Ely. The original plan, conceived in 1939, was for an extension of the church in the form of a Lady Chapel. This was cancelled on the outbreak of war and eventually the new plan was substituted.

1952 09 27

Fire completely gutted the Touchwood Café on the Cambridge – Newmarket road near the Bottisham Swan. When the fire brigade arrive the thatched roof was well alight and the flames being fanned by a strong wind. It was eventually put out but little of the café remained except for articles salvaged by

helpers and passers-by. It is believed the fire was caused by sparks from a bonfire behind the café which set fire to the thatch

1952 11 19

The new police station at the junction of White Hart Lane and Paddock Street is the most up-to-date and first of its kind in the county. Four houses are provided for the station staff and the office accommodation includes sergeant's office, charge room and patrol rooms, in addition to garage accommodation. In charge of the new station is Sgt F.G. Brown who moves from Bottisham to take over from Sgt Miller who has been at Soham for the last five years.

1953 05 26

People of the parish of Lode celebrated their church centenary with a service at which the Bishop of Ely preached followed by a supper. Every seat was filled in the little church, described as one of the most beautiful of the time. It was the work of the Rev John Hailstone, vicar of Bottisham who instigated the building. Before that the people of Lode had been some miles from their parish church

1954 07 17

There were strong protests at plans for new offices at Shire Hall Cambridge. The new building would contain Assize and Quarter Sessions courts, offices and accommodation for the County Library. The courts at Linton, Caxton, Melbourn and Bottisham were 'shockers', housed in old police stations and the magistrates would be only too happy to do their work in an up-to-date building. Architects had strongly advised against cheese-pairing costs of the assembly hall: Cambridge's lovely college buildings had been the best and had stood the test of time and the costs of labour and materials were rising. But a new plan for one-tier local government might mean the doom of County Councils and the scheme should be deferred.

1954 12 23

Saying farewell to Mr Henry Morris who is retiring from the post of Chief Education Officer after 34 years the County Council presented him with a portable typewriter and a filing cabinet. He had seen that modern transport which would otherwise transform the countryside into a widespread suburb and the rural hinterland into a cultural void, could be harnessed to create a rural region for the provision of educational and social amenities. He created the Village College as a rural community centre providing facilities for the countryman as good as those offered in towns. He had reinvigorated the school curriculum, improved the quality of teaching and established school gardens at Bottisham and Bassingbourn.

1952 08 25

National Benzole want to open a three-pump filling station on Newmarket Road opposite the junction the Coldham's Lane. The property belonged to Mr West and was used for the maintenance and storage of motor vehicles with three pumps behind a screen wall. They would knock down two adjoining properties to widen the frontage. But planners say the city fire station was across the road and it would hold up the flow of traffic. There were eight other petrol stations on the left-hand side of the road as far as Bottisham. 52 08 24 & a & b

1958 02 25

Snow blanketed the county as Cambridgeshire experienced the worst conditions of the winter leaving many people without electricity. There were treacherous conditions with bad blizzards. A bus carrying children became stuck in a ditch between Hare Street and Barkway, the Newmarket Road was blocked at Bottisham and snow ploughs were called out to clear the road. 58 02 25

1959 08 27

Harry Morgan appreciation – teacher St Luke's and Bottisham school – 59 08 27

1961 03 09

The Phantoms rock and roll group have signed an exclusive contract with Palette Records. The group comprises Ken Leverington, David Cooke and Cliff Gentle, of Cambridge, on guitars, Freddie Smart, a Chatteris hairdresser on drums and Johnny Cullen of Bottisham as vocalist. They had been playing together for six months when two undergraduates, both songwriters, heard them at a dance. They learned 10 new numbers in three weeks and recorded a demonstration disc. Now 'Phantom Guitar' is to be released through Pye in April 61 03 09

1961 11 25

Bottisham village hall fire – 61 11 25a

1961 12 06

Coypu have been killed at Rampton, Lode and Bottisham during November along with 10 other in the Isle of Ely. The coypu grows to two feet long with strong orange-coloured incisor teeth and webbed feet. It lives in marshy areas and makes flat 'nests' of dry reeds. It is essential to seek out and kill them before they become established in the fens, causing heavy damage to crops and dykes 61 12 06a

1963 08 16

New houses at Bottisham estate have modern equipment, designed for young and old – 63 08 16
Death watch beetle is eating its way into the 13th century Holy Trinity Church, Bottisham. The roof beams are rotting and half of the roof has had to be completely removed before restoration. Now the nave is criss-crossed with a framework of scaffolding while workmen replace them. The work will cost more than £3,000 to complete and the Vicar is appealing for donations. 63 11 13

1964 04 17

Temporary classrooms at Bottisham and Arbury schools – 64 04 17b

1964 06 09

Bottisham has four public houses but few know the Queen's Head as it closely resembles a modest country cottage and does not even have a name-plate. William Osbourn, 86, has held the licence for 53 years but now has only seven regular customers. They are mostly friends who come for a glass of beer and a game of dominoes. There is one room, kept spick and span with wooden seats, a table and a few old prints. His family have been running pubs in the village for over 100 years. Once there were six others but now just the Bell, Swan and Anchor remain. 64 06 09b

1964 06 20

Rank Bros Garage, Bottisham makes cancer research instruments – 64 06 20a

1964 06 26

Bottisham Lode railway station, once used by dairy farmers as a centre for milk distribution, is to close under the Beeching plan. The old waiting rooms, station master's office and lamp room will be turned into office accommodation. James Beard, who has worked as porter for 45 years, remembers when there was also a station master, three clerks, two signalmen and an assistant porter. Now only he remains. The once gleaming rails are becoming rusty and the British Railways sign creaks on ancient hinges. Three times a week freight trains pass through but these will stop on July 13th – 64 06 26

1964 09 25

Cambridgeshire's 19 wartime airfields are falling into disuse or being reclaimed as farm land. Weed-choked runways, derelict barracks and tumbledown conning towers are all that is left. At Duxford the concrete baffles have been demolished and its runways are disappearing with the rubble being used for housing and road building. Waterbeach had a succession of Vikings and Vampires aircraft but now it is mainly trainers that take off. At Bottisham many of the buildings are used for storing grain. But Mepal, which recently had a Thor missile base, is now in the hands of the Americans – 64 09 25c

1964 10 30

Bottisham photo feature – 64 10 30c

1965 06 24

Bottisham Sluice new hydraulic lock being constructed – photo 65 06 24a

1965 07 23

Bottisham Locks showing new lock – photo – 65 07 23b

1965 09 28

Bottisham Lock construction progress – photo – 65 09 28a

1974 05 10

Water seeping through the banks of the Reach, Burwell, Swaffham Bulbeck and Bottisham lodes presented the Great Ouse local land drainage committee with a cash dilemma: spending a smaller amount of money but partly closing the system to navigation or spending a lot more to allow boating to continue. The engineer said there was a straight choice. This involved demolishing all or part of the high-level lode systems so creating a new low-level system of drains, or retaining the high-level systems and controlling the seepage that occurs. “Once you close a system of waterways to navigation you will never get it open again”, he said.

1975 02 06

The Cambridge area property market offers a broad range of housing at the moment. It ranges from Ridley Hall to a tiny disused telephone exchange at Bottisham. Other exchanges at Cheveley and Steeple Morden are also on the market as STD spreads through the Cambridge telephone area. Some of them have possibilities as bijou cottage residences but buyers have to go on the waiting list for a telephone

1976 05 10

Bottisham Village College’s new £23,000 swimming pool was “christened” with a practical joke. To many of those who sat or stood in sweltering sunshine the fate of the college’s former head, Mr Charles Brereton, may have seemed more than enviable. In the first breach of pool regulation rules he was pushed into the cool blue of the water. During his time at the college he presided over the raising of over £18,000 in two years.

1977 02 10

Planners took a long hard look around Cambridge to see where development could best be accommodated. They soon dismissed Histon or Girton because they have relatively limited potential for longer-term growth. At Milton there is considerable opportunity for expansion within the new road framework. Both Bar Hill and Waterbeach possess characteristics suitable for growth, but Cottenham is less accessible to Cambridge. Growth of up to 4,000 might be contemplated in the Teversham-Fulbourn area and the same at Bottisham. To the south it would be possible to develop the Clay Farm area of Trumpington and the Shelfords but Sawston seems to have the greatest development potential

1978 04 25

A plan to sell off part of the playing fields at Bassingbourn Village College is being considered by Cambridgeshire County Council as part of its programme to raise cash. Development land has been fetching up to £40,000 an acre and all their land is being looked at to find any that can be sold with planning permission. But the scheme is likely to run into heavy opposition from villagers. The site is also used by the primary school and by young footballers who cannot use the recreation ground because of a restrictive covenant banning Sunday games. A similar scheme to sell land at Bottisham Village College is also being opposed

1979 03 06

Ten years ago one household telephone and a bleeper machine represented the worldly goods of the Cambridge Medical Answering Service which handled about 80 calls a months. Today it has hardware worth around £100,000 and it takes eight nurses working in shifts to process the 120,000 calls a year. The service started because one family doctor at Bottisham, Neville Silverston, found that if he and his wife wanted to go out anywhere they needed not only a baby sitter but also a phone-sitter. "It was always the GP's wife who handled the calls when he was out. Now we have this wonderful harem who do this extraordinary job. We get messages more quickly and the patients get attention more quickly", he said.

1979 03 15

The old court house at Bottisham, which until recently housed the county's unit for disruptive schoolchildren, will soon be up for sale. 'Whitebeams' was used as an out-of-school centre for children needing special supervision but the centre has now moved to Romsey. Now the County Council has been granted permission for change of use for it to be lived in again.

1979 05 25

Quy boast just about the best facilities in village cricket. They have a magnificent pavilion and the finest wicket in the county. All they do not have is a cricket team. The club was forced to withdraw when officials discovered they could find only six players for their opening game against Bottisham. The basic problem is the lack of youngsters to replace retiring players said George Carter who is now 60 but only retired from playing a few seasons ago. One villager who has supported the club through thick and thin is Doug Rolph, the man responsible for the outstanding quality of the wickets. He will be playing for Lode this season but will be the first to return when Quy start up again.

1979 08 14

Tolly Cobbold, the brewer, is axing the Anchor pub at Bottisham to avoid spending money on improving its lavatories. They have got two pubs in the village with fairly deficient toilets and have decided to improve those at the White Swan where the business is better. The landlord, Jim Torpey says the Anchor's customers are very disappointed; it has a crib, pool and darts team and raises money for the Addenbrooke's cancer scanner appeal. The closure is expected next year

1981 03 06

Bottisham's picture-taker – Henry Howard, horsekeeper; not one house in village that didn't have a photo taken by him pre WWI – 81 03 06b

1981 07 10

The Royal Wedding guest list is broad and not just the nobs are being invited. Valerie Wright, daughter of a Bottisham farm labourer will be in St Paul's; she is nanny to the four-boy Van Cutsem family at Exning and will shepherd young master Edward and his fellow pages and bridegrooms at the wedding. Flo and Bernie Moore will also be there: she was bedder at Trinity College and cleaned for Prince Charles when he was a student. "He was so tidy: he folded everything and put it away. He never left anything", she recalled. 81 07 10b

1983 05 13

Bertie Harding and his wife Gladys are retiring after 22 years as keepers at Bottisham lock and river users must now operate it for themselves. The most boats they have put through in one day was 97 on one August Bank Holiday. There have been nasty moments with people falling into the water or injuring themselves jumping from boats. Broken legs have been the most common injury. 82 07 01a
Yet another village primary school is facing the axe – the fifth this year. The thatched Lode school, which was built in the 1930s by Lord Fairhaven, is the latest victim of county council proposals and could be shut by July 1985. Only 33 pupils attend the school, which has a capacity of 50. They will transfer to Bottisham, one and a half miles away. 83 05 13 p1

1984 02 28

The tiny community of Lode has suffered yet another setback – it is to lose its vicar. This follows the closure of its only shop. Meanwhile villagers are anxiously waiting a decision on the proposed closure of the village school. A petition signed by all but 12 villagers will be handed in to the county council who want to send the 35 pupils to Bottisham instead. This would mark the death knell for the village, councillors have warned. 84 02 28 p10

1984 02 29

Manor comprehensive school has been saved from threatened closure, though it will in future take only 120 youngsters a year and the county council will keep a close watch on its numbers. But councillors decided by just two votes to close Lode school and transfer the children to Bottisham, even though that school did not want them. The infants' school at Fulbourn will also be shut down and the buildings put to good use – perhaps as a teachers' centre. 84 02 29 p3

1984 06 26

Horningsea village sign was unveiled by Radio Cambridgeshire's Ian Masters. It was designed and painted by local resident, Peter Halford and made by a class of boys from Bottisham Village College. A time capsule containing information and items from the village has been built into it. 84 06 26 p13

1985 09 24

Cambridgeshire Secondary Schools need £10 million spent on essential building work to stop children being taught in 'appalling conditions'. Hinchbrook Lower School was particularly bad with leaking roofs and rotting window frames. Many of their 14 mobile classrooms were over 20 years old and totally dilapidated. Work is also needed at Bottisham and Swavesey Village Colleges but the current Government will not allow the work to be carried out in a single year. "The Conservatives have left us with a massive problem" said an Alliance county councillor 85 09 24

1986 04 04

When Dr Neville Silverston arrived as the local GP in Bottisham 27 years ago it was really like Dr Finlay's Casebook. "There was just a little room in my house, with very few facilities" he said. And over at Fulbourn things were just as Spartan "I had to work from a caravan lit with gas". Today there is a surgery at Bottisham and a health centre at Fulbourn. Grateful patients presented Dr Silverston with an engraved silver bowl on his retirement though he will continue his Magpas activities 86 04 04a

1987 04 10

Bottisham was the county's third Village College when it opened in May 1937. In those days people came in the evening to cook, mend their farm machinery and listen to religious music rather than sit at home with only a gas lamp and nothing to do. Now they come for swimming, yoga and bingo. The jubilee will be celebrated with an exhibition, book and the planting of 2,000 trees. The current pupils are planning a big social event of their own 87 04 10

1987 05 08

Bottisham Village College jubilee celebrations include an exhibition portraying the college through the last five decades. It hasn't forgotten its origins as a "countryman's college". In the 1930s when the original school was built, Bottisham was a poor farming district. It was a time when education was depressed and children were collected from neighbouring villages to attend what was only the second village college to be opened. Then it had 211 pupils, today there are 960. 87 05 08c

1987 06 08

Bottisham commemorate 361st fighter group – 87 06 08b

1987 07 31

With three local radio stations operating in the area and four community radio groups waiting in the wings, the battle of the airways is set to begin. BBC Radio Cambridgeshire has been operating for

more than five years while Peterborough-based Hereward Radio has set up a studio in Cambridge and Chiltern Radio has a wide following in the west of the county. Now a Cambridge Community Radio Group wants to set up studios while Bottisham-based Granta Radio hopes to obtain a franchise from the Independent Broadcasting Authority. 87 07 31

1988 04 06

Bottisham's impressive swimming, which opened in 1986 after years of intense fund-raising efforts, now has a new extension. It is a fine, heated pool available to public and village college which runs at a profit by exploring every possible avenue of instruction, entertainment and education including groups learning windsurfing, canoeing, snorkelling and water polo. The Brownies, youth clubs and the Asthma Society are other regular users. It is a fine example of what a community activity can achieve when the enthusiasm and scope are there 88 04 06

1989 04 29

Woollard proposes new village, Bottisham – 89 04 29a

1989 07 10

Angry residents of Riverside in Cambridge claim the council is not doing enough to save them from the nightmare of flooding. One says: "We should be provided with adequate sand bags and plastic sheeting. We live at the bottom of a slope and because the drains are inadequate there is instant flooding every time there is heavy rain. We were wading through it and the water was knee-deep in places. The Fire Brigade received over 20 calls following the weekend's heavy rain including Bottisham Village College and St Andrew's Community School 89 07 10

1990 01 11

A unique disaster course at Bottisham Village College, including talks on first aid and the effect of radiation, will train volunteers in what steps to take if World War III broke out. It means they will be able to aid emergency services like the fire or police. Should a disaster occur telephone and information systems would become swamped and emergency planners will train volunteers in the collection of information of people caught up in a disaster. But none would be called in until the normal emergency services reach a stage where they cannot cope. – 90 01 11a

1990 05 19

Bottisham Grange private care development with integrated care, medical facilities etc – 90 05 19a